



Pathways Tennessee (Pathways to prosperity network)

- The Pathways to Prosperity report was released in February 2011 which focused on the growing challenge of preparing young Americans for the 21st century
- http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news_events/features/2011/Pathways_to_Prosperty_Feb2011.pdf
- Acknowledges development of “more braided” system between education and industry to address the issue of the “skills gap” that threatens the preparedness of young Americans entering the workforce
- June 2012, Tennessee was selected to join a multi-state consortium, the Pathways to Prosperity Network, which is led by Harvard University and Jobs for the Future
- December 2012, the state network (Pathways Tennessee) was created with the formation of the State Planning & Implementation Team, the guiding body behind the statewide efforts of the initiative
- The mission of Pathways Tennessee is to provide Tennessee students rigorous academic/career pathways, which are linked to economic and labor market needs and trends
- *Pathways must:*
 - have multiple entry and exit points in education
 - transition seamlessly from secondary to postsecondary, allowing for college credit and industry certifications in high school
 - encourage/support active industry involvement in student learning
- Two pilot regions currently developing pathways based on their strengths and opportunities to braid education and industry in order to better support their students, employers, and communities:
 - Upper Cumberland – Highlands of Tennessee
 - Southeast – Public Education Foundation
- Next three regions identified by the State Planning Team & Implementation Team:
 - Southwest
 - Greater Memphis
 - East
- Tennessee has been divided into nine regions by the State Planning & Implementation Team that is reflective of the Department of Economic and Community Development’s “Jobs Base Camps”
- *Expectations:*
 - Initiatives build off existing resources and interests
 - Driven locally/regionally
 - Sustainable



Key Components

- A *solid partnership* between business and education
- *Relevant curriculum* that links to credential and career advancement: pursuing a combination of rigorous academic instruction and relevant work experience
- Students ultimately earn a *postsecondary credential or degree with labor market value* while obtaining work-based experience, potentially advancing on a career pathway established by a stakeholder company
- *Return on Investment* is measurable for engaged businesses and institutions. (Metrics are important no matter what form the partnership takes, from a simple low-cost mentorship program to large strategic investments of time and resources.)
- Advanced partnerships allow for the exploration and promotion of *innovative approaches in curriculum development and delivery*, and purposeful, streamlined ways to produce skilled talent



Image Credit: Corporate Voices for Working Families